Minutes of the
EMPOWER NORTH DAKOTA COMMISSION
February 9, 2022
WSI Building, WSI Board Room
1600 East Century Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503

Members present:
James Leiman, Jason Bohrer, Al Christianson, Danette Welsh, Jay Skabo, David Straley

Ex Officio Members:
Lt. Governor Sanford, Wade Boeshans, Brent Brannan, Stacey Dahl, Julie Voeck

Public present:
Call in via Microsoft TEAMS platform

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME
Chairman James Leiman called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., welcoming members and guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A motion was made by Bohrer and seconded by Welsh to approve the minutes of November 2, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

IHS MARKET ROADMAP for Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG)
Daniel Rood
Eleonor Kramarz
The EmPower Commission, along with industry partners developed an ESG strategy last year and with extensive research and analysis, IHS provided recommendations to fit that strategy.

The project’s workplan was done in four phases.
I. Assess North Dakota’s current ESG landscape.
II. Identify and characterize the ESG solutions.
III. Prioritize short and long term ESG solutions.
IV. Build an ESG roadmap for North Dakota.

ESG issues and opportunities for North Dakota were presented with key themes from barriers and key takeaways from case studies were identified. IHS Market then facilitated a workshop with industry to generate potential ESG solutions for North Dakota. The solutions were categorized by 1) Stakeholder communication, 2) Industry coordination, 3) Economic incentives, 4) Industry ESG support, and 5) Government collaborations.

LIGNITE ENERGY COUNCIL SURVEY RESULTS
Jason Bohrer
Jason discussed survey results from years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2021. The public was asked various questions on approval or disapproval rating for coal mining in the state, carbon capture technology, and Research & Development support. Members appreciated the survey and asked if future surveys could be filtered to show results by the regions in ND.

CLEAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY (CSEA)
Chairman Leiman
James highlighted the recently funded projects that were approved by CSEA. Secondly, James asked members to express how they foresee CSEA into the next biennium.

Members stated that the funding needs to be strong and consistent. A funding stream, even if the funds are not tapped immediately, but to exist for future projects. The Legacy Fund was suggested. Members also mentioned engagement with the counties regarding their concerns of the new Hydrogen Hub project and the impact of severance tax.

HB1452, a new chapter to title 54 of the NDCC, relating to a clean sustainable energy authority and a clean sustainable energy fund was discussed, with a new assignment for the EmPower ND Commission of public hearings to be held.

INDUSTRY UPDATE
Members gave a short update to their industry.

FUTURE MEETINGS
The next meeting will focus on the engrossed version of HB 1452 with a possible half day strategy session.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Geoff Simon, Western Dakota Energy Association, commented on the issue ND faces with the war on hydrocarbons and the war on coal.

ADJOURNMENT
Motion made by Christianson and seconded by Welsh to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

James Leiman
5.11.2022
James Leiman, Chairman
Date

Sherri Frieze
5.11.2022
Sherri Frieze, Boards and Commissions E.A. Date